



Guardian Challenge 2004

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Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

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Photo by Staff Sgt. William Greer

Finishing touches

Vandenberg personnel support shields being lifted into place in preparation for the 2004 Guardian Challenge opening ceremonies and banquet at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. Guardian Challenge pits the best-of-the-best space warfighters against each other, determining the top space wing teams in the Air Force. This event captures the essence of competition through rigorous evaluation and increases the overall capabilities of unit teams to perform their missions. See story on Page 2.

Continuing the legacy

By **General Lance W. Lord**
Commander, Air Force Space Command

Let me be the first to wish everyone a hearty welcome back to competition. You continue the long blue line of space and missile warriors in this, the 37th, Guardian Challenge.

It is through these fields of friendly strife where we hone the skills, knowledge and abilities to ensure we are always on top — as the world's greatest space and missile force. You've trained hard, you've had grueling evaluations, and

you've made it to center stage.

I'm grateful for the individual efforts you've made, and we are all thankful for the team effort put forth by your unit to prepare for this competition.

Everyone wins with GC — we are all sharper in our knowledge and better in procedures. It doesn't end with this competition. Space is now an "equal partner" in our American way of war because our dedicated efforts to win each and every day we put on our uniforms. Best of luck — you've got the skills to win.



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Wallis

Members from the 30th Space Wing work hard putting the final touches on the hangar that will house the 2004 Guardian Challenge opening ceremonies and score posting. Many of the crew members are volunteers who spent the past month away from their jobs to set up trusses, lighting and curtains.

Lights, camera, action

By Airman 1st Class Shaun Emery
Guardian Challenge Public Affairs

With more than 300 lights, 700 feet of truss work and 1,000 square feet of black curtain, the crew setting up the hangar for opening ceremonies of the 2004 Guardian Challenge are planning a show with all the theatrics of a Hollywood production.

"Our goal is to take this empty hangar and turn it into a show that will put all eyes on Vandenberg Air Force Base and Guardian Challenge," said Capt. Milo Quesinberry, Guardian Programs Office deputy chief.

According to Mr. Rick Chavez-Hatton, 30th Operations Support Squadron logistics support specialist, the core team of 15 workers along with

another 10 volunteers have spent the last month preparing the hangar to welcome this year's competitors.

"All agencies, from transportation to maintenance to power production, have really come together to sure up this project," he said. "A big thanks should go out to the agencies that were able to part with some of these volunteers."

For a majority of the crew, setting up the hangar was a completely new experience.

"It's like having a crash course in being a roadie," said Tech. Sgt. John Bohlander, 2nd Space Launch Squadron maintenance controller. "These guys have been trained on running forklifts, lifts, hanging lights and putting up trusses. All the things that go with putting on a professional show."

"It made me say 'wow,' when I looked at what we accomplished in the past few weeks," said Staff Sgt. Christine Pryor, 30th Services Squadron.

For others, like Ms. Dayna Castro, GPO protocol, putting on a good show for the 2004 teams is a high-priority.

"Seeing first-time competitors faces when they get off the bus and walk into the hangar is awesome," she said. "It makes all the hard work worthwhile."

Ms. Castro has been involved with GC since 1976 as both competitor and a supporter.

With a lot of last minute changes and requests, patience has been extremely important, said Sergeant Bohlander.

"It takes a lot of people to make this happen, and we've come together as a team to make it work."

Transportation keeps GC rolling

By Airman 1st Class Shaun Emery
Guardian Challenge Public Affairs

An assembly line of vehicle operators from the 30th Logistics Readiness Squadron have worked non-stop for the past week making sure visitors to the 2004 Guardian Challenge competition can get around base and in style.

As the largest annual event held at Vandenberg Air Force Base, GC takes teamwork from everyone to go off without a hitch, said Tech. Sgt. John Scadlock, Guardian Programs Office transportation project officer.

The 30th LRS has inspected and cleaned more than 87 vehicles as of April 29, with many more to come.

Vehicle inspections include, checking oil, fluids, tires, batteries and windshield wipers.

"Vehicles need to be in perfect running condition," said Senior Airman Carlos Acosta, 30th LRS vehicle operator.

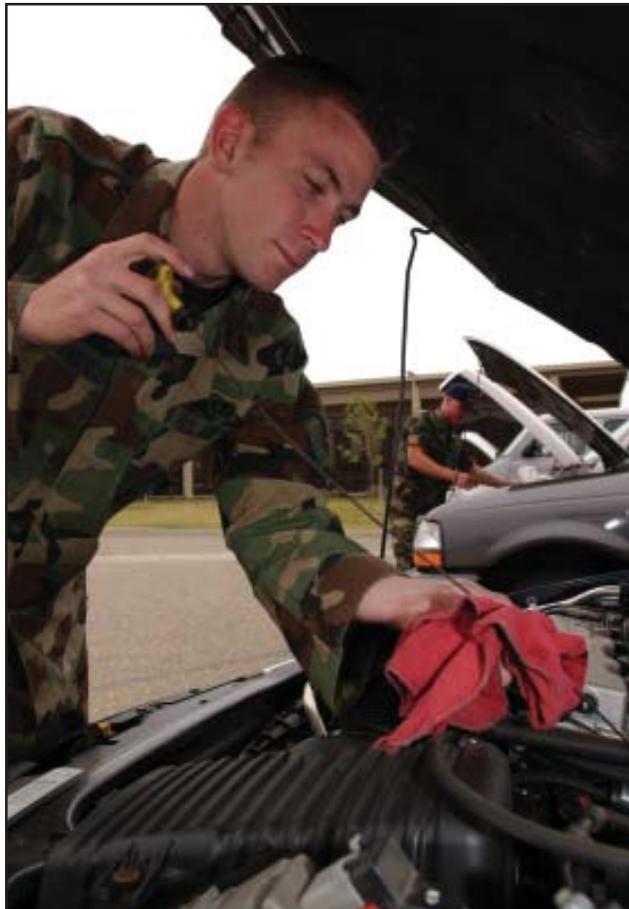


Photo by Staff Sgt. William Greer

Airman 1st Class Robert Carpenter, a vehicle operator from the 30th Logistics Readiness Squadron, checks the oil level in a vehicle being prepared for use during Guardian Challenge 2004.

"At the end of the day, what matters most is that people see and appreciate the work we do to make these vehicles look their best."

Senior Airman Carlos Acosta
30th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Following a thorough check-up, vehicles are cleaned from front to back.

"We clean stains on the carpets, clean the dashes, vacuum carpets, clean the trunks and wash the wheels and wheel wells," Airman Acosta said. "We work hard on our vehicle appearance. We want to make a good first impression. When people come here and see a clean vehicle it lets them see the quality of work we do at Vandenberg."

Each vehicle takes from 45-60 minutes to complete.

"We've put in some extra hours here and there, and will be busy this weekend, but it's what we need to do to help with the competition," Airman Acosta added.

According to Acosta, "At the end of the day, what matters most is that people can see and appreciate the work we do to make these vehicles look their best."

The long hours are nothing new to 30th LRS members. Just two three weeks prior to Guardian Challenge, the base had its Operational Readiness Inspection.

"We went from an ORI where we put in 80 hours a week, to Guardian Challenge," said Sergeant Scadlock. "But we have a first-rate team here, and they have really stepped up in every aspect."

Vehicle operators take turns performing tasks, making sure that no one falls into a rut.

"Teamwork has been important this week," said Staff Sgt. Roger Dean, 30th LRS NCOIC of equipment support. "We have to work together to get the job done right. It's awesome to see people working on the same project with the same goal in mind," Sergeant Dean added.

The stamp the 30th LRS has put on the 2004 GC can be seen in the shine on each competitor's and distinguished visitor's vehicle as they roll down the streets of Vandenberg.

Vehicle tip

Personnel operating government vehicles must complete the checklist on Air Force form 1800 whenever the vehicle is driven.

Safety top priority at GC 2004

By Guardian Challenge Public Affairs

◆ The “basic speed law” in California states no person should drive at a speed greater than reasonable or prudent. In the event of bad weather or poor visibility, people should adjust driving speed accordingly. People should never drive at a speed that endangers the safety of other people or property.

◆ When driving on base, the maximum speed limit is 25 mph unless otherwise posted. On some roads, day and night speed limits are posted so people can have a higher speed limit during hours of daylight and a safer, reduced speed limit during hours of darkness.

◆ California drunk driving laws are strict, with the legal intoxication level being .08 percent blood alcohol level. People can be charged with DUI for blood alcohol level being between .05 and .08 percent if their actions suggest they’re intoxicated. This means a 160-pound person could be considered legally intoxicated after only two or three drinks so don’t risk it.

◆ Watch for animals. Vandenberg is home to many different types of wildlife. Deer, wild pigs, squirrels, coyotes, etc., can cross roads at any time. In more uninhabited parts of the base

or after nightfall, slow driving speed down to help avoid accidents involving vehicles and animals.

◆ Due to the Pacific marine climate and base geographic features, a varying thickness of “Vandy fog” can be present on and around the base. Drivers should adjust their driving speed to allow for reduced visibility. Make sure to turn low beam headlights on, not high beams. California State law prohibits driving only with parking lights on during hours of darkness.

◆ In the past, Vandenberg was an Army training base for tanks and artillery. People can find unexploded ordnance in many areas of the base so if one is found, people should mark the area, notify people nearby and notify the Vandenberg command post at 606-9961 or security forces at 606-3911.

◆ There are more than 30 miles of coastline at Vandenberg. Most water activities such as swimming and surfing are prohibited in most areas of the coastline due to dangerous currents and rip tide conditions. The only two areas where water activities are authorized are at Jalama Beach, about one and a half miles north of the first rock outcropping, and the mouth of the Santa Ynez River, about three and a half miles south of the first rock outcropping.

Today’s weather



82/54



In the beginning

The tradition of Guardian Challenge began in 1967 when Strategic Air Command opened its first missile combat competition, nicknamed “Curtain Raiser.” Two combat crews from each intercontinental ballistic missile wing and a single combat targeting and alignment team competed to determine the best of the best.

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